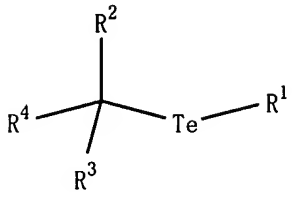
Amendments to the Claims

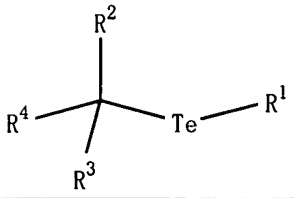
1. (Currently amended) An organotellurium compound represented by the formula (1)



(1)

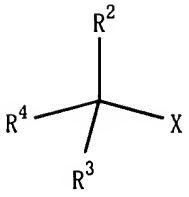
wherein R^1 is C_1-C_8 alkyl, R^2 and R^3 are each a hydrogen atom or C_1-C_8 alkyl, and R^4 is aryl, substituted aryl, ~~an~~ aromatic heterocyclic group, hydroxycarbonyl ~~group~~ or cyano, provided that R^2 and R^3 are not simultaneously a hydrogen atom.

2. (Currently amended) A process for preparing an organotellurium compound of the formula (1) comprising reacting a compound of the formula (2), a compound of the formula (3) and metallic tellurium



(1)

wherein R^1 is C_1-C_8 alkyl, R^2 and R^3 are each a hydrogen atom or C_1-C_8 alkyl, and R^4 is aryl, substituted aryl, aromatic heterocyclic group, hydroxycarbonyl or cyano, provided that R^2 and R^3 are not simultaneously a hydrogen atom



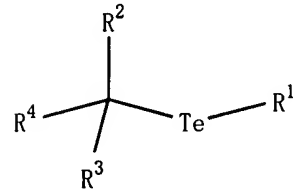
(2)

wherein R^2, R^3 and R^4 are as defined above, and X is a halogen atom

$M(R^1)m$ (3)

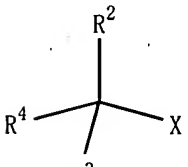
wherein R^1 is as defined above, M is an alkali metal, alkaline earth metal or copper atom, and m is 1 when M is an alkali metal, m is 2 when M is an alkaline earth metal, or m is 1 or 2 when M is a copper atom.

3. (Currently amended) An organotellurium compound of the formula (1) which is obtainable by reacting a compound of the formula (2), a compound of the formula (3) and metallic tellurium



(1)

wherein R^1 is C_1-C_8 alkyl, R^2 and R^3 are each a hydrogen atom or C_1-C_8 alkyl, and R^4 is aryl, substituted aryl, aromatic heterocyclic group, hydroxycarbonyl or cyano, provided that R^2 and R^3 are not simultaneously a hydrogen atom



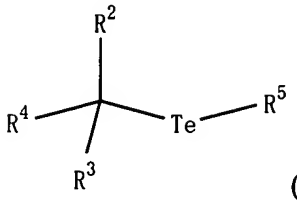
(2)

wherein R^2, R^3 and R^4 are as defined above, and X is a halogen atom

$M(R^1)m$ (3)

wherein R^1 is as defined above, M is an alkali metal, alkaline earth metal or copper atom, and m is 1 when M is an alkali metal, m is 2 when M is an alkaline earth metal, or m is 1 or 2 when M is a copper atom.

4. (Currently amended) A living radical polymerization initiator of the formula (4)



(4)

wherein R^5 is C_1-C_8 alkyl, aryl, substituted aryl or aromatic heterocyclic group, R^2 and R^3 are each a hydrogen atom or C_1-C_8 alkyl, and R^4 is aryl, substituted aryl, aromatic heterocyclic group, hydroxycarbonyl or cyano, provided that R^2 and R^3 are not simultaneously a hydrogen atom.

5. (Withdrawn) A process for producing a living radical polymer characterized by polymerizing a vinyl monomer with use of a compound of the formula (4) as a living radical polymerization initiator.

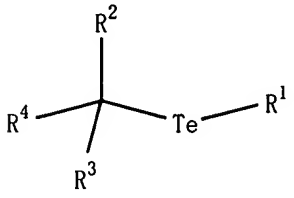
6. (Withdrawn) A living radical polymer which is obtainable by subjecting a vinyl monomer to living radical polymerization with use of a living radical polymerization initiator of the formula (4).

7. (Withdrawn) A macro living radical polymerization initiator comprising the living radical polymer of claim 6.

8. (Withdrawn) A process for producing a block copolymer comprising polymerizing a vinyl monomer using the macro living radical polymerization initiator of claim 7 as a living radical polymerization initiator.

9. (Withdrawn) A block copolymer which is obtainable by polymerizing a vinyl monomer using the macro living radical polymerization initiator of claim 7 as a living radical polymerization initiator.

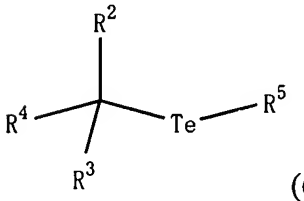
10. (Currently amended) An organotellurium compound as defined in claim 1, represented by the formula (5) ~~as defined in claim 1~~



(5)

wherein R^1 is C_1-C_8 alkyl, R^2 and R^3 are each a hydrogen atom or C_1-C_8 alkyl, and R^4 is cyano, provided that R^2 and R^3 are not simultaneously a hydrogen atom.

11. (Currently amended) A living radical polymerization initiator ~~of~~ as defined in claim 4, represented by the formula (6) ~~as defined in claim 4~~



(6)

wherein R^5 is C_1-C_8 alkyl, aryl, substituted aryl or aromatic heterocyclic group, R^2 and R^3 are each a hydrogen atom or C_1-C_8 alkyl, and R^4 is cyano, provided that R^2 and R^3 are not simultaneously a hydrogen atom.

12. (Withdrawn) A process for producing a living radical polymer as defined in claim 5 characterized by polymerizing a vinyl monomer with use of a compound of the formula (6) as a living radical polymerization initiator.

13. (Withdrawn) A living radical polymer as defined in claim 6 which is obtainable by subjecting a vinyl monomer to living radical polymerization with use of a living radical polymerization initiator of the formula (6).

14. (Withdrawn) A micro living radical polymerization initiator comprising the living radical polymer of claim 13.

15. (Withdrawn) A process for producing a block copolymer comprising polymerizing a vinyl monomer using the macro living radical polymerization initiator of claim 14 as a living radical polymerization initiator.

16. (Withdrawn) A block copolymer which is obtainable by polymerizing a vinyl monomer using the macro living radical polymerization initiator of claim 14 as a living radical polymerization initiator.

17. (Withdrawn) A macro living radical polymerization initiator for preparing a block copolymer comprising the living radical polymer of claim 6.

18. (Withdrawn) A process for producing a block copolymer comprising polymerizing a vinyl monomer using the macro living radical polymerization initiator for preparing a block copolymer of claim 7 as a living radical polymerization initiator.

19. (Withdrawn) A block copolymer which is obtainable by polymerizing a vinyl monomer using the macro living radical polymerization initiator for preparing a block copolymer of claim 7 as a living radical polymerization initiator.

20. (Withdrawn) A macro living radical polymerization initiator for preparing a block copolymer comprising the living radical polymer of claim 13.

21. (Withdrawn) A process for producing a block copolymer comprising polymerizing a vinyl monomer using the macro living radical polymerization initiator for preparing a block copolymer of claim 14 as a living radical polymerization initiator.

22. (Withdrawn) A block copolymer which is obtainable by polymerizing a vinyl monomer using the macro living radical polymerization initiator for preparing a block copolymer of claim 14 as a living radical polymerization initiator.